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Dear Mr Findlay

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS S4W-12295, 12301, 12304, 12305, 12308 and 12309

The Cabinet Secretary in his response to the above PQs indicated that they relate to operational matters within the responsibility of the Scottish Court Service corporate body. I wrote to you last week advising that we were looking at our management information data and am now able to respond to the matters you have raised.

Consolidated data is only available from the year 2008 onwards.

S4W-12295 asks: *how many court cases have been cancelled in each year since 2007 and how many were cancelled due to lack of court time, also broken down by sheriffdom?*

The following three tables show the number of accused persons who had trials which were adjourned with no evidence being led.

Sheriff Court Summary	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Glasgow & Strathkelvin	4,708	5,370	5,405	4,066	3,514
Grampian Highland & Islands	2,342	2,207	2,001	1,692	2,002
Lothian & Borders	2,065	2,004	2,065	2,020	2,110
North Strathclyde	2,322	2,559	2,573	2,563	2,394
South Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway	2,797	2,445	2,445	2,623	2,726
Tayside Central & Fife	3,327	3,403	3,020	3,033	3,158
National	17,561	17,988	17,509	15,997	15,904

JP Court	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Glasgow & Strathkelvin	1,396	3,699	4,340	3,249	2,777
Grampian Highland & Islands	372	726	638	539	550
Lothian & Borders	244	483	522	376	472
North Strathclyde	-	24	697	717	650
South Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	938	999	1,058
Tayside Central & Fife	-	398	955	730	635
National	2,012	5,330	8,090	6,610	6,142

Cross sheriffdom comparison of JP court data will only be possible from 2010 onwards following the completion of the court unification programme.

Sheriff Court Solemn	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Glasgow & Strathkelvin	434	326	266	424	761
Grampian Highland & Islands	136	191	174	140	174
Lothian & Borders	96	137	132	212	334
North Strathclyde	168	205	179	165	312
South Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway	207	291	275	334	541
Tayside Central & Fife	154	121	137	218	292
National	1,195	1,271	1,163	1,493	2,414

The following tables show the number of trials which were adjourned due to lack of court time

Sheriff Court Summary	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Glasgow & Strathkelvin	88	199	376	242	378
Grampian Highland & Islands	416	469	373	268	371
Lothian & Borders	260	282	331	362	335
North Strathclyde	302	347	315	359	344
South Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway	169	168	161	205	298
Tayside Central & Fife	402	493	388	379	568
National	1637	1958	1944	1815	2294

JP Court	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Glasgow & Strathkelvin	40	82	290	183	153
Grampian Highland & Islands	23	126	104	89	98
Lothian & Borders	17	50	65	64	64
North Strathclyde	-	2	57	99	78
South Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway	-	-	105	162	168
Tayside Central & Fife	-	25	84	65	57
National	80	285	705	662	618

Cross sheriffdom comparison of JP court data will only be possible from 2010 onwards following the completion of the court unification programme.

Sheriff Solemn	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Glasgow & Strathkelvin	24	10	7	39	24
Grampian Highland & Islands	32	26	43	29	31
Lothian & Borders	33	14	28	68	134
North Strathclyde	36	22	24	27	23
South Strathclyde, Dumfries & Galloway	15	32	42	44	75
Tayside Central & Fife	25	17	10	24	35
Sheriff Court National	165	121	154	231	322

S4W-12301 asks: *how many High Court cases have been cancelled due to a lack of court time in each year since 2007?*

Trials adjourned due to lack of court time	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
High Court	8	8	5	10	13

The figures shown will include cases adjourned to later in the same assize as well as those adjourned to a later sitting.

S4W-12304 asks: *what the cost has been of providing court support services for trials that did not take place in each year since 2007.*

S4W-12305 asks: *what the cost has been of providing court support services for trials that did not take place due to lack of court time and had to be rescheduled in each year since 2007.*

S4W-12304 and 12305 - The scheduling of court and judicial resources is a complex matter which requires flexible programming taking into account, not only the level of demand, but also the sudden removal of that demand when cases do not proceed at a late stage. The current practice is to schedule trial hearings to ensure that court time is not left unused any more than is necessary.

S4W-12308 asks: *how many working days have been lost by (a) witnesses, (b) legal aid lawyers and (c) court staff attending court for trials that did not take place in each year since 2007?*

S4W- 12309 asks: *how many working days have been lost by (a) witnesses, (b) legal aid lawyers and (c) court staff attending court for trials that were cancelled due to lack of court time in each year since 2007?*

S4W-12308 and 12309 - In response to part (c) of the above questions, no working days have been lost by court staff as a result of trials that did not take place or which were cancelled due to lack of court time. No staff time is lost due to the outcome of individual cases.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre and published on the Scottish Court Service website.

Yours sincerely



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